

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY MANAMA
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USLO RIYADH
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, QA
SUBJECT: VISIT TO QATAR OF CHASE MANHATTAN CHAIRMAN DAVID
ROCKEFELLER

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 27 CHASE MANHATTAN CHAIRMAN DAVID
RECKEFELLER AND PARTY VISITED DOHA. ROCKEFELLER AND KEY ADVISERS
SPENT AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH AMIR KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI AND
CALLED ALSO ON MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM SHEIKH ABDUL
AZIZ BIN KHALIFA. ACCORDING TO MEMBERS OF THE ROCKEFELLER
PARTY, KHALIFA PRESSED VIGOROUSLY FOR FURTHER UNITED STATES
EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE AMIR ALSO RAISED
THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT VENTURE QATARI-AMERICAN
PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES USING QATAR'S VAST
NATURAL GAS RESOURCES. END SUMMARY.

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2. AMIR KHALIFA STRESSED TO DAVID ROCKEFELLER THE DANGER OF
PERMITTING PRESIDENT SADAT'S MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE TO
FAIL. ESSENTIALLY, KHALIFA'S THESIS WAS THE SAME ONE HE HAS MADE
TO ME IN THE PAST, NAMELY, THAT IF THE SADAT INITIATIVE IS SEEN
TO HAVE FAILED, THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WILL BE REPLACED BY A
LEFTIST REGIME UNDER HEAVY SOVIET INFLUENCE. THE SITUATION IN
THE MIDDLE EAST THEN WOULD FIND IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN, LIBYA AND

EGYPT LOOKING TO MOSCOW. THE MIDDLE EAST BALANCE WOULD TILT TO THE LEFT AND THE SAUDI AND OTHER MODERATE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY QATAR, WOULD COME UNDER UNBEARABLE PRESSURE. IN THE END, THIS WOULD BE DIASTROUS FOR THE ARABS AND EQUALLY SO FOR THE UNITED STATES. ROCKEFELLER WAS URGED TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO STRENGTHEN AMERICAN EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. (COMMENT: IT MAY BE WORTHY OF NOTE THAT THE NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO QATAR, COLIN BRANT, HAS SUGGESTED THAT AMIR KHALIFA'S ALMOST OBSESSIVE FEAR ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF A FAILURE OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE IS SOMETHING PLANTED IN THE AMIR'S MIND BY HIS OLD EGYPTIAN ADVISOR, DR. HASSAN KAMEL. BUT, IN OUR VIEW KHALIFA, WHO FEELS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP FOR THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT, IS GENUINELY CONVINCED ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN REASONING THAT A SADAT FAILURE WOULD MEAN VERY ROUGH WATERS FOR QATAR AND OTHER MODERATE STATES. END COMMENT).

3. AMIR KHALIFA SPENT THE OTHER HALF OF THE LONG SESSION DISCUSSING WITH ROCKEFELLER QATAR'S ENORMOUS NATURAL GAS RESERVES, ESTIMATES OF THE SIZE OF WHICH RANGE FROM 100 TRILLION ALL THE WAY UP TO 300 TRILLION CUBIC FEET. THE PRESENCE OF RESERVES OF SUCH MAGNITUDE MAY HERETOFORE NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY APPRECIATED BY ROCKEFELLER. KHALIFA WENT INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING IN THE UNITED STATES JOINT VENTURES OWNED 40 PERCENT BY QATAR, UTILIZING QATAR LNG TO MAKE FERTILIZERS, PLASTICS, CLOTH AND PETROCHEMICALS. (COMMENT: THERE COULD HARDLY BE A RULER MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBITIOUS TO DEVELOP HIS COUNTRY AND INCREASE ITS IMPORTANCE THAN AMIR KHALIFA. HE HAS A CHOICE OF EXPLOITING HIS NATURAL GAS HORIZONTALLY AND SELLING IT AS SIMPLE ENERGY OR EXPLOITING IT VERTICALLY TO PRODUCE A VARIETY OF MANUFACTURES PRODUCTS. HORIZONTAL EXPLOITATION MIGHT GIVE QATAR AN EXCELLENT INCOME FOR 100 YEARS OR MORE AND MAKE THE COUNTRY MORE IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE ENERGY FIELD THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. BUT THIS MIGHT BE TOO PASSIVE A ROLE FOR THE DYNAMIC KHALIFA. FOR IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, QATAR WOULD STILL BE ONLY AN EXPORTER OF A RAW MATERIAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, VERTICAL EXPLOITATION WOULD SEEM TO PROMISE THAT QATAR COULD EVENTUALLY BE A HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED STATE. THIS PROBABLY APPEALS TO KHALIFA'S VISION OF THE FUTURE, BUT THE DISADVANTAGE IS THAT HEAVY INDUSTRIALIZATION WOULD MEAN THE INFLUX OF POPULATION PERHAPS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES LARGER THAN THE PRESENT POPULATION OF BETWEEN 200 THOUSAND AND 300 THOUSAND. AND KHALIFA AND THE OTHER NATIVE QATARIS NUMBERING PERHAPS 50 THOUSAND ALREADY FEEL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT BEING BURIED IN A SEA OF NON-QATARIS. THUS, THE IDEA OF QATARI PARTICIPATION IN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED STATES SEEMS TO STRIKE KHALIFA AS A WAY TO EXPLOIT THE GAS VERTICALLY WITHOUT RUNNING THE DANGER OF QATAR'S SMALL INDIGENOUS POPULATION BEING INUNDATED BY FOREIGNERS.

4. FURTHER COMMENT: QATARIS GENERALLY FOUND CHASE CHAIRMAN
ROCKEFELLER AN ATTRACTIVE FIGURE, WHILE THE AMIR FOUND THIS
SYMBOL OF AMERICAN RICHES AND POWER A VISITOR AFTER HIS
OWN HEART. AMIR KHALIFA WANTS A MUCH LARGER AMERICAN PARTI-
CIPATION IN QATAR'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND THE POLITE AND
UNASSUMING ROCKEFELLER SEEMED EXACTLY THE MAN ON WHOM TO TRY OUT
HIS IDEAS. AND AMERICAN BUSINESS CIRCLES MIGHT WELL NOTE NOW THAT
QATAR OFFERS A TREMENDOUS FUTURE POTENTIAL. END COMMENT.
KILLGORE

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